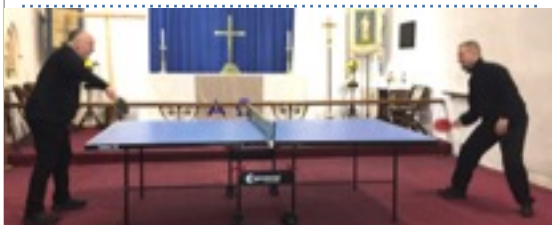




NEWS & VIEWS

from the Benefice of Cinderford with Littledean

Inside this Month...



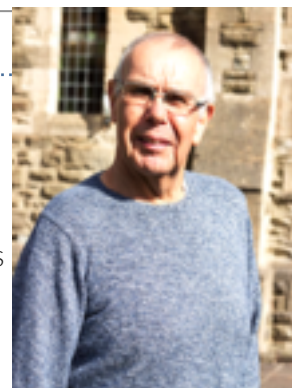
Who's on the Trike?



Reader's Letter

Dear friends,

Recently I was preparing a talk for the Parish Eucharist at St John's based on Matthew 9:35 - 10:8. Reading through the passage I was struck by the word 'compassion': 'Jesus saw the crowds and had compassion on them'. This made me think about the compassion shown in times of trouble as has been shown very recently.



On the morning of Tuesday 23 May we awoke to the news of the terrorist attack at the Manchester Arena. It was so heart breaking to hear of what happened to so many children, young people and adults who had just enjoyed a night out. But also in those few minutes of news, there were so many accounts of people helping others who were complete strangers. People who saw the awful situation and showed care and compassion to those in need and there were so many prayers said for so many people. Less than two weeks later, another deadly terrorist attack in London, and this time people were desperately trying to protect others and being seriously injured themselves. When atrocities of this kind happen there is such an outpouring of agape love, care and compassion from person to person between those who, until that moment, were complete strangers.

The gospel reading talks about Jesus seeing the awful situation that God's chosen people, Israel, were in and he had care and compassion for them and he prayed for them. Jesus saw the situation: people were tormented, exhausted and led astray, harassed by pressures, exhausted by the pace of life, going nowhere and being led astray by many false ideologies – not much has changed in 2000 years!

Perhaps in our usual routines of daily life we miss those situations where and when we could help others, maybe we don't even look, let alone care unless there are incidents such as the Manchester and London attacks. At which point all pride, selfishness, prejudices get stripped away and most people want to help.

Today, Jesus wants us to see, to care, to have compassion, and to pray. Those four words, I believe, sum up how people, who would probably not claim to have a Christian or any other religious belief, respond to such atrocities as were witnessed in Manchester and London, through God stirring their hearts and souls. It is at times like these, that the inevitable question is asked: 'Where is God in these situations?'. Maybe the answer is that he is there weeping for his people and he is in the heart and soul and mind of each of those people who wanted to care and be compassionate and to pray for those who are hurting.

These acts of terror, and the fire in the London flats, bring heartbreak and pain, but the compassion shared gives a glimmer of hope and light in a dark world. Let us strive to be God's people in difficult situations, people who see, care, have compassion, and pray.

God Bless, Richard

Sunday Service Times

	Bilson*	St Ethelbert's	St John's	St Stephen's
Sun 2 July		10.30 am AAW	9.30 am PE	11.00 am Baptism, JC 3.00 pm ES
Sun 9 July	3.00 pm HC	10.30 am HC	9.30 am CBE	11.00 am MW, JC, WILD
Sun 16 July				11.00 am HC (Anthea!)
Sun 23 July	3.00 pm SW	10.30 am Baptism	9.30 am Baptism	11.00 am AAW
Sun 30 July		10.30 am JS @ URC Norman's Final Service	9.30 am PE	11.00 am MW, JC, WILD
Sun 6 Aug		10.30 am AAW	9.30 am PE 2.00 pm Baptism	11.00 am HC, JC, WILD 3.00 pm ES

*** All Bilson services are currently taking place at Hanover Court.**

AAW = All Age Worship; CBE = Communion by Extension; EP = Evening Prayer; ES = Evensong;
 HC = Holy Communion; JC = Junior Church (preschool up to Y6); JS = Joint Service; MP = Morning Prayer;
 MW = Morning Worship; PE = Parish Eucharist; SE = Said Eucharist; SW = Sunday Worship; WILD = Youth Group
 (Y7 - Y13).

Midweek Service Times

Wed 5 July, 10.00 am HC at St Stephen's
 7.30 pm - 9.00 pm Shalom at St Stephen's
 Sat 8 July, 6.00 pm Shalom Celebration Service at
 St Stephen's
 Wed 12 July, 10.00 am HC at St John's
 Sat 15 July, 3.00 pm **Anthea's Ordination at
 Gloucester Cathedral**
 Wed 19 July, 10.00 am HC at St Stephen's
 Wed 26 July, 10.00 am CBE at St John's
 Sat 29 July, 11.00 am Wedding at St John's
 Wed 2 Aug, 10.00 am HC at St Stephen's

Keswick Convention

Once again, a group from the Benefice will be attending week two of the Keswick Convention from 22 to 29 July. Set in the heart of the beautiful Lake District the convention also makes for a brilliant holiday.

There are still some places left (2 beds in a twin room) at the house at the Low Briery site where we stayed last

year if you'd like to join us. The week can be as relaxed or as packed as you like. There's plenty of opportunities for some great worship and teaching with speakers like Alistair Begg, Jim Turrent and Steve Midgley. There's also time for gentle walks by the river or picnics by the lake along with shopping in and around Keswick. Transport may be available too.

If you're interested in joining us, please speak to Mike (822286) or Rachel (719438).



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Our Churches



St Ethelbert's, Littledean, GL14 3NL

Holds a range of services at 10.30 am. On the 3rd Sunday of each month the service alternates between St Eth's and Littledean URC.

St John's, Cinderford, GL14 3EX

9.30 am services in the moderate catholic tradition with a Eucharistic and sacramental focus.



St Stephen's, Cinderford, GL14 2AA

Different worship styles at 11 am and 3 pm. 11 am services reflect an evangelical tradition with a worship band & children's and youth activities; 3.00 pm services are traditional (BCP) with organ. Various midweek services.

Bilson Mission, Cinderford, GL14 2TQ

Bilson services are currently taking place at Hanover Court, whilst essential maintenance work is being assessed.



From the Registers

Baptisms

18 June Scarlett Isabella Bryony Vizor St Stephen's

Funerals

7 June Audrey Wade

St Ethelbert's

14 June Vivian Cooper

FoD Crematorium

27 June Brian Davies

St Stephen's



Seen walking around the Benefice, but where?

Answers can be found on page 11.

I'm a church around the Diocese, but where?

Answers can be found on page 11.



Our Partner Churches

Salvation Army
Forest of Dean
01594 839106

Littledean URC
01452 760271

Our Lady of
Victories Roman
Catholic

01594 833173
www.forestrc.co.uk

Cinderford
Methodist Church
01594 825662

Cinderford
Baptist Church
01594 822618

Forest of Dean
Community Church

07975 994224
www.fodcc.org

Homegroups

Homegroups started meeting in June. They are looking at "Great Prayers of the Bible" and considering their usefulness in our lives today.

There are various groups around the Benefice meeting in people's homes on different nights of the week. If you are not yet a member of a group, and would like to join, please have a word with Mike (822286).

Dementia Support

The Dementia Action Alliance are conducting a survey to find out what life is like for people with dementia in the Forest of Dean District. What is good? What is challenging?

If you are living with Dementia or caring for someone with Dementia then have your say. The survey can be completed online or complete a paper copy at a drop in session where you can also have a chat and a tea / coffee. (To access the form online go to the Forest of Dean District Council website and search for 'dementia awareness')

The next drop in session in Cinderford is on Wednesday 19 July from 2.30 pm - 6.00 pm at the Belle Vue Centre.

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Operation Christmas Child



Continuing with the aim to pack a hundred shoeboxes at packing parties in October...

In July, we are going to focus on larger toys, such as skipping ropes, small puzzles or building sets (such as LEGO), musical instruments, teddies (must have a CE label on). Balls are very popular, from bouncy balls to tennis balls or a flat football (and a pump) they can all provide endless fun for the child receiving the box.

Although they can be larger toys, they need to be something that isn't going to fill an entire shoebox as we need to pack other gifts in there too! If you aren't sure if an item is suitable, please speak to Rachel Witham (719438).

In case you missed it: January we were collecting (individually wrapped) soaps and flannels; February was hats, scarves and gloves; March was toothbrushes and toothpastes, April was small toys, May was stationery and June was hairbrush/comb & hair accessories plus jewellery. If you have any items for the shoeboxes, please bring along to St Stephen's Church, give to a church member to bring or please contact Elaine Bradley (825401).



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Christian Aid Week Totals

At last all the Christian Aid Week money is banked ! Sincere thanks to everyone who supported the total - Village Collectors, Local Churches , Collectors at The County Store and the manager Dave.

Well done to Littledean residents!

The final results were :

Littledean House to House Collection	£763.08
Donations from local churches, Littledean School , Hanover Court	£741. 10
Churches Together Good Friday Lunch at The Methodist Church	£50.00
Collection at The County Stores	£588.67
Extra donations	£8.08
Total collected.	£2150.93

The money has been forwarded to Christian Aid and when Gift Aid is added the total should be £2365.85.

Sincere thanks to everyone who contributed or helped to raise this fantastic total. - Ann Ladd

From the archives: The Littledean collection has taken place for 30 years and The County Store collection for 22 years.

BoB Day

Saturday
20 May
saw our
annual
BoB Day



take place at St Stephen's. It was great to have such a good crowd to enjoy conversation over a full English Breakfast with sausages, bacon, eggs and black pudding all from Cameron's.



Only a few of us were available in the middle of the day but that didn't stop us enjoying many fiendish games of very high paced table tennis and a long walk around the Heywood plantation. It was great to appreciate the newly opened up views over towards May Hill and to enjoy talking to each other.



As usual, our numbers were once again bolstered in the evening to enjoy Rachel's beef & potato and chicken pies. Delicious! It was great to share fellowship together over our meal, laugh together and encourage one another as well as celebrating Nigel's birthday with cake.

Our monthly BoB Breakfast is held on the third Saturday of each month and all men are very welcome to join us. - Chris Witham



News & Views

Please pray for:

- Bishop Rachel and Bishop Robert
- those who have recently been bereaved
- anyone who is unwell
- others around the Benefice who need prayer
- those who have recently been baptised, their parents and Godparents; especially Scarlett
- Vanda & Eddie, renewing their vows in July
- Gavin & Karen, getting married in July
- Mike; in his ministry around the Benefice
- Anthea; as she is ordained as priest
- Chris, Linda, Lynne and Richard; our licensed readers
- Jim and Adalia Fisher, in the Philippines
- Felipe and Sarah Yanez (CMS partners in Spain) and their sons Sam and Aaron
- Cinderford Street Pastors
- children, young people and their leaders
- all affected by the recent tragedies in Manchester and London
- all those serving in the Police Force and Fire Service
- all those around the world facing persecution, homelessness or hunger; especially those in East Africa
- all MP's recently elected to Parliament



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Activity and Event Times

St Ethelbert's Summer Fayre	Saturday 1 July, 11.00 am - 1.30 pm
Swaziland Presentation (& Fairtrade Sale) at St Stephen's	Sunday 2 July, 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm
Mothers' Union at St Stephen's	Tuesday 4 July, 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm
Shalom BBQ & Celebration Service at St Stephen's	Saturday 8 July, 3.00 pm - 8.00 pm
BoB Breakfast at Chris Witham's (6 Greenhill Close)	Saturday 15 July, 9.00 am - 10.00 am
Celebration Cakes for Anthea at St Stephen's	Sunday 16 July, after 11.00 am service
Fellowship Lunch at St Stephen's	Sunday 23 July, 12.30 pm

Weekly Activities

- Monday:** 7.00 pm - 8.45 pm **Bellringing**, St Ethelbert's Church (*not on the first Monday of the month*)
 - Group to practice ringing for Sunday services. (Bells rung on a Sunday from 9.45 am - 10.30 am)
- Tuesday:** 2.00 pm **Craft & A Cuppa**, St Stephen's Church (*meets during term time, not first Tuesday of the month*)
 - Craft group where members bring along their own craft and share fellowship
- Friday:** 10.00 am **Coffee Morning**, St Stephen's Church
 - Chance to meet for fellowship and enjoy some Fairtrade tea and coffee
- 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm **IF** (boys, Year 7+), St Stephen's Church (*meets during term time; FINISHES on July 14*)
 - Youth group for boys in secondary school with food, games and activities

***** Putting a Bit Back into the Community

We retired last year and bought a cottage in Cinderford.

We have started a blog at
<https://vandaandeddie.uk/>

We wanted to put something back into the community here and have created a free directory for any Forest of Dean business or organisation and an event calendar.

There are no charges at all,
 so why not take a look?

Vanda & Eddie

Shalom BBQ & Party



We invite you to join us at our Annual Big Birthday Party & BBQ

Saturday 8th July 2017

3 pm to 6 pm (Free admission)

at St Stephen's Church, Belle Vue Road, Cinderford, GL14 2AA

Please let us know you are coming for dietary & catering purposes.



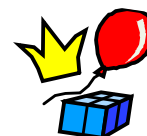
To book please phone Shona Marshall on 07765 111405

Website: www.shalomgroups.org.uk

The Salvation Army is a Church and registered Charity No. 214779 and in Scotland SC009359



Shalom's 21st Birthday



We would like to invite you to join us at our
 21st Anniversary Service

Saturday 8th July 2017

6 pm to 8 pm

at St Stephen's Church, Belle Vue Road, Cinderford, GL14 2AA

RSVP Email Shona Marshall at contact@shalomgroups.org.uk

An offering will be taken towards the outreach work of the Shalom Groups

Website: www.shalomgroups.org.uk

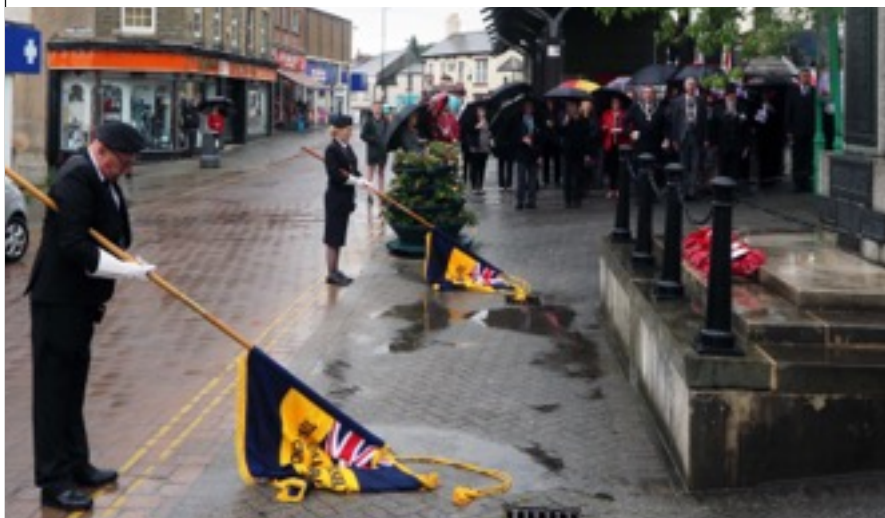
The Salvation Army is a Church and registered Charity No. 214779 and in Scotland SC009359



Falklands Commemoration in Triangle

On 4 June 2017 the Royal British Legion, Cinderford Branch held a short service at the memorial in the Triangle to commemorate the end of the Falklands War on 14 June 1982.

We remembered all those who lost their lives in the conflict, but particularly Sapper Christopher Alan Jones, from Cinderford, who died on 12 June 1982, aged 19.



Anthea's Ordination

Anthea will be ordained as Priest on Saturday 15 July at 3.00 pm in Gloucester Cathedral.

If you would like to go but are struggling for transport, please contact a churchwarden (see back page for details) who will hopefully be able to match you up with someone who is driving and has space in their car! Likewise, if you are driving and have space in your car, please let a churchwarden know!

On Sunday 16 July, there will only be one service in the Benefice. This will be a Holy Communion service at 11.00 am at St Stephen's with Anthea presiding over communion for the first time!

The service will be followed by the traditional celebration of copious amounts of cake!

Please do come along to support Anthea as she begins the next phase of her ministry.

Mike's Question:

How many times in the Gospels can you find Jesus described as having compassion for others or Jesus describing someone else as having compassion?

Mike's Challenge:

What do the narratives relating to compassion have in common?

Answers will be in next month's "News & Views" but please do discuss with Mike in the meantime!

Answers to last month's ?'s:

Jesus uses the phrase 'my Father's house' in the following places:

Luke 2:49 'Did you not know I must be in my Father's house?' when Jesus, at 12 years old, was left in Jerusalem after the Passover.

John 2:16 'Stop making my Father's house a market place!' when Jesus is cleansing the Temple.

John 14:2 'In my Father's house are many rooms' when Jesus was talking to his disciples before he was arrested.

(Jesus uses the phrase 'my father's house' when talking about The Rich Man and Lazarus.)

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Getting to Know You ... with Carey Morton

St Stephen's member

Favourite ice-cream flavour?

Chocolate.

Favourite colour? Blue.

Favourite film? School of Rock.

Favourite food & drink?

Chocolate and Coffee.

Favourite season? Autumn.

Favourite flower or tree?

Lavender.

Favourite TV programme?

Songs of Praise.

Favourite actor/actress? Jack Black.

What would be your ideal holiday? Canal holiday.

Would you prefer to live in a big city or small village? Small village.

Favourite hymn or church song? Father God, We Thank Thee.

First car (and did it have a name)? Fiat 127.

If you could have any car, what would it be? Lexus.

Where would you most like to be right now? Isle of Wight with my grandchildren.

Favourite place to eat out? Nandos.

Favourite place to go shopping? Debenhams.

What was your best holiday? Fuerteventura.

Favourite Church building? Salisbury Cathedral.

Favourite item of clothing? Fleece jacket.

Are you a cat person or a dog person? Cat.

If you could choose your own first name, what would it be and why? Kerry, so I didn't have to keep spelling it!

Favourite family memory? Days at the beach with the children when they were young.

What four people (dead or alive) would you invite to a dinner party? Mary Berry, Jeremy Corbyn, Adam Lambett, Brian May.

First Job? Caravan Cleaner.

Worst Job you've ever done? Chip Shop.

Earliest memory? Picking wild strawberries with my mum.

Which living person do you most admire? The Queen.

Best job you've ever had? Leonard Cheshire, working with young people with physical disabilities.

What do you owe your parents? Being independent.

If you could be any animal, what would it be and why? Cat, because they are very chilled and relaxed.

What would your superpower be? To fly.

If you could go back in time, where would you go, and why? 1940's, because of the fashions of the time.

Most treasured possession? New wedding ring.



Lectionary

2 July (3rd Sunday after Trinity)

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Psalm 89:8-18

Romans 6:12-end

Matthew 10:40-end

9 July (4th Sunday after Trinity)

Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalm 145:8-15

Romans 7:15-25a Matthew 11:16-19, 25 - end

16 July (5th Sunday after Trinity)

Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalm 65:8-end

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

23 July (6th Sunday after Trinity)

Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalm 86:11-17

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

30 July (7th Sunday after Trinity)

1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalm 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-end

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

6 August (Transfiguration)

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Psalm 97

2 Peter 1:16-19

Luke 9:28-36

Rev Norman Retires

Rev Norman Whitaker is retiring as minister of the United Reform Church (URC) of Littledean. His final service as minister will be on Sunday 30 July at 10.30 am at Littledean URC. We wish him every blessing for his retirement.

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Littledean Church of England Primary School

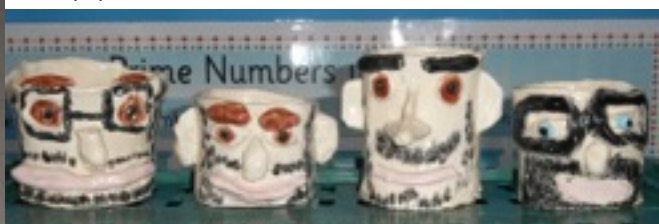
Forest High School Saves Father's Day

The children and staff of Maple Class at Littledean C of E Primary School would like to

say a huge and special thank you to Serena Rivers from the Art Department at Forest High School. Serena showed such generosity in allowing us to use her department's kiln to fire our children's Father's Day pots in time for Father's Day.



Imagine our panic and dismay when our kiln suffered a mechanical fault whilst firing the first batch! One phone call to Forest High and the panic was over. The children were not left disappointed and were very proud of their creations.



Christmas Tree Festival

St Stephen's are hosting a Christmas Tree Festival for the first time in 2017. The festival will take place over the first weekend in December (from Friday 1 to Sunday 3). Lots more details to come!

The organisers would like to invite any individual, organisation or business from the local community who would like to join in to register for a space for a tree.

Trees can be either traditional Christmas Trees or made from something unique to represent your group. They can also be decorated however you want (although the insurance company has ruled out lit candles!).

There is no charge for a space for a tree unless you wish to use it to sell items (such as decorations, jewellery) in which case there will be a £5 charge.

Spaces are limited, so if you know you would like a space, please fill in a registration form, available from our website or Rachel Witham (mrswitham@gmail.com / 01594 719438).

If you would like more information, please contact Rachel (details above).

News & Views

The Open the Book Team



Invite you to join them
at

St Ethelbert's Church, Littledean
10.30 am, Sunday 2 July
Followed by Coffee and Cake

St Ethelbert's Summer Fayre - Sat 1 July

On Saturday 1 July, from 11.00 am until 1.30 pm, St Ethelbert's Church will be packed full of delightful stalls selling all manner of goodies from teddies to tombolas, fruit scones to Fairtrade goodies, Bric-a-Brac to bottles; all alongside light lunches, delicious homemade cakes and Paint-Your-Own for anyone who wants to let their creative side out!

Free entry and a very warm welcome to all!

Fairtrade Focus



Swaziland, nestled between South Africa and Mozambique, is a wonderful haven for exploring a part of Africa, its wildlife and people.

It has been my dream since I was a little girl to go on safari and see majestic giants such as elephants, rhinos and giraffes in their natural habitat. In recent years, it has become a dream to meet some Fairtrade producers and witness the difference first hand that purchasing Fairtrade products makes to their lives.

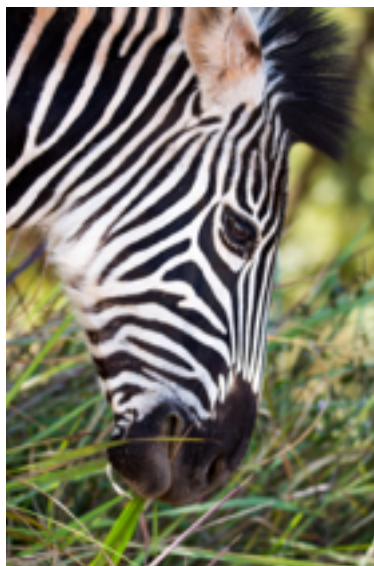
Chris and I were privileged to make both of those dreams come true in a wonderful holiday to Swaziland.

I shed a lot of happy tears, coming face to face with people that have made products that I have been selling and promoting alongside almost literally coming face to face with some truly incredible wildlife.

It is hard to say which was the most moving, but it is definitely true to say that it is a holiday I will not forget!

We were lucky to be able to tick off a huge range of animals on our 'spotted list' including elephants, rhinos, giraffes and zebras but also wildebeest, impala (also very tasty!) and hyrax. Bonus points to anyone who knows where and why hyrax are mentioned in the Bible!

It was amazing to see these animals in the habitat they were designed to live in, and the landscapes were also inspiring. It was an incredible opportunity to appreciate more of God's creation.



Visiting various fairtrade producer groups, watching products being made and getting

a sneak preview of some of the Traidcraft prototypes (!) was also life-changing.

It is definitely apparent the huge difference being able to sell through Traidcraft makes in people's lives. We were also able to meet some producers that are just starting out and selling through SWIFT, Swaziland's own Fairtrade partnership.



We talked to people about building waterproof workspaces, educating their children and paying for healthcare. We heard about dreams for the future of employing more women and installing electricity in homes.

We hugged people that we had 'met' on videos that Traidcraft have made and we have watched in church. Real people that we are all making a real difference to by buying fairtrade food and gifts through Traidcraft.

We came back changed, excited, moved, convicted, slightly overwhelmed, but

mostly inspired. Inspired to continue promoting Fairtrade and Traidcraft and the amazing difference they are making in people's lives. And the massive amount of change we can bring about for people living on the other side of the world simply by purchasing food and handcrafted gifts.

Chris has taken a *LOT* of photos. We will be sharing some of them and many more stories on Sunday 2 July from 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm. I will also be talking at the Mothers' Union on Tuesday 4 July (2.00 pm - 4.00 pm). On both occasions there will be products available to purchase from artisans across Swaziland.

Rachel Witham



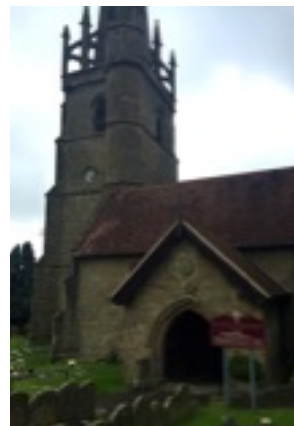
Seen walking around the Benefice, but where?



Boxing
Club on
Station
Road.

I'm a church around the Diocese, but where?

Church of St John the
Baptist, Ruardean



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Who's on the Trike?



Laura May

Class Teacher - Maple Class
Senior Leadership Team
Littledean C of E School

Dates for Your Diaries...

- Sat 16 September - **Benefice Pilgrimage**
Sat 23 September - **Community Prayer Breakfast** at St Stephen's
Fri 13 and Sat 14 October - **SHINE Ladies' Conference** at St Stephen's
Sun 15 October - **Wave of Light for Baby and Infant Loss** at St Stephen's
Sat 4 November - **Christmas Craft Fayre** at St Stephen's

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If you have anything for the next magazine (articles, photographs) or would like to enquire about placing an advert please contact magazine@cinderford-churches.org.uk by Saturday 15 July.

Comments and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editors, the PCCs or the Vicar of the Benefice.

Summer Craft Fayre

An amazing array of talent from artisans around the Forest was on display at the

Summer Craft Fayre on Saturday 24 June at St

Stephen's Church. Alongside the amazing array of locally handcrafted products were Fairtrade products from around the world.



Visitors also enjoyed delicious food and cakes and painting their own creations.



The next Craft Fayre will be on Saturday 4 November when we look forward to welcoming many more stallholders and visitors alike.

